

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page ten, please amend the last paragraph to read as follows:

Figure 5 diagrammatically shows a variant in which the linear electrodes 14 are arranged on the outer side of the vessel of the lamps 15. Thus, the vessel wall here serves as a dielectric for the dielectrically impeded discharge. The coupling element 16 has two elongate contact springs 17, which electrically conductively connect the two outer electrodes 14 of one lamp 15 to the two outer electrodes 14 of the other lamp 15.